

An Appeal to the Citizens of Exeter,

BUT PARTICULARLY TO

The Payers of Poor-Rates in the East Quarter.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM exceedingly sorry to beg your Attendance and Support, a second time, at the Grammar School, in three weeks hence, the week after Midsummer;—the Day is not fixed, but you will be informed of it. The glaring reason why I was not returned as a Member of the Corporation of the Poor at the recent Election, in lieu of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, is well known—by Injustice, gross Partiality, and undue Influence. The ensuing Election is in lieu of Mr. SMART, whom many Gentlemen gave me their promise of vote to succeed; which they were at liberty not to do at the recent Election.

My pretensions cannot be for any gain, but to do good, to disburthen, not to burthen.—I wish there was no tradesman a Guardian, who served the Workhouse with Commodities. It shall be my study to lay every economical improvement before the Courts, to alleviate the heavy Poor-Rates, Twelve Thousand a year, and only Two Hundred in the Workhouse; and also for the employment, cleanliness, and to discriminate for the comforts of the aged and distressed Poor. These my words must be put into action by me more than a person who is a mere inactive of the old school,—but you will expect it from me.

My Opponents allow that I am as eligible as many of the Corporation; but they are afraid, because I speak my mind—they say I shall be noisy and troublesome—I may be in both instances; the former, to make the deaf hear; the latter, if I see any thing wrong; but those who support me would set their face against me, if I was to give offence. On their canvas, where they found a voice given to me, they illustrated like busy bodies, who cut off their noses to spite their faces. To make self-elected bodies in any Corporation, is to take away liberty, rights, and privileges. These persons should read the local Acts of Parliament, which saith, “the Guardian of the Poor is to be chosen by the payers of the quarter, paying twopence a week in his own right:”—Education should have taught those gentlemen better.

The Gentleman they have sought for against me, I have a higher opinion of than they have, for I value him beyond being a rival with me; they have done me good in the cause, more than harm; for he has no desire to be a Member of the Corporation, nor will he solicit a voice or take any thought about it; neither has he a desire for any to vote for him; nor would I have opposed him in any shape. One volunteer is worth twenty impressed men. I offered eight months before Mr. SANDERS was applied to, so I am not the opposer, but the opposed. As for the returning officer of the late election, I remind him of the punishment of King Midas, but I attribute more to his head than his heart.

I remain,

GENTLEMEN,

Your Perseverant

HIGH